

EXHIBIT 4 H04
DATE 1-14-09
HB 105



January 15, 2009

To: Business and Labor Committee

RE: HB 114 Short Title: Clarify licensure and liability in public health emergencies

Dear Mr. Chairman Wilson & Committee Members:

The Association of Montana Public Health Officials (AMPHO) would like to express our strong support for HB 114. We feel this legislation is needed because it allows licensed out-of-state volunteer professionals to assist Montana during a Governor declared disaster or emergency. Most importantly, it establishes procedures to recognize and register licenses, administer disciplinary sanctions, and provide limited immunity from liability to qualified volunteer professionals.

AMPHO is representative of 40 Montana counties of all sizes from very rural to the seven biggest in the state and each of those counties is aware of the limited resources we face in Montana. If this bill passed, it would give our state and county officials the ability to pull licensed professionals from other states during a Governor declared disaster or emergency. These professionals could range from medical staff to help the wounded, veterinarians to help with wounded or displaced animals, or engineers to help determine structural stability after an earthquake, just to name a few. DPHHS has worked closely with local public health officials, local and state Disaster and Emergency Services and Department of Labor and Industry throughout the drafting of this bill, and all agree that this legislation is in the best interest of Montana citizens and will strengthen our response to emergency and disaster situations.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this bill. If you have any further questions please call any of the below listed AMPHO Executive Board members:

Stephanie Nelson, Chair	Gallatin County	406-582-3100/steph.nelson@galliton.mt.gov
Jill-Marie Steeley, Chair-Elect	Madison County	406-843-4295/madcophd@3rivers.net
Melanie Reynolds, Past Chair	Lewis-Clark County	406-457-8910/mreynolds@co.lewis-clark.mt.us
Linda Best, Treasurer	Deer Lodge County	406-563-7863/adlcph@rfwave.net
Jeanne Seifert, Secretary	Dawson County	406-377-5213/dchealth@midrivers.com
Erin McGowan-Fincham, Executive Director		406-443-1570/emcgowanfincham@mt.net

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Steeley".

Jill-Marie Steeley
Chair-Elect, AMPHO

Cc: Jim Murphy, DPHHS Emergency Preparedness Supervisor

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

January 14, 2008

Honorable Representative Arlene Becker, Chair
And Members of the House Human Services Committee
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4825

Dear Representative Becker and Honorable Members of the House and Human Services Committee:

The City of Missoula strongly supports passage of HB 105 "reporting of emergency room and hospitalization discharge data." We are aware that Montana remains one of only a few states in the nation that does not require the collection and analysis of either hospital discharge data or emergency room data.

The current system sets health care workers (HCW) up for failure as they are largely unable to assess the true health status of their patients. Data collection and reporting will provide HCWs with a bigger, clearer, and more timely picture of what injuries and illnesses people are suffering from and to help them prevent these burdens. Relying on death certificates for such analysis, as Montana currently does, is entirely too late in the process.

Locally, the City of Missoula is advocating for the passage of HB 105 by enabling:

- our local health care providers and our local health board to see what types of morbidity most affect our residents so local interventions and services can be planned accordingly;
- our police department to receive earlier and more accurate indication of drug overdoses that may indicate changes in drug traffic patterns; and
- our employers to provide insurance coverage based on health care measurement outcomes.

Finally, we hold the privacy concerns of health care information to be paramount, and we find the confidentiality protections of HB 105 to be very strict in this regard.

We urge the passage of HB 105 and thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen
Mayor

cc: Missoula Delegation
Missoula Police Department
Missoula Lobbyists, Gallatin Public Affairs